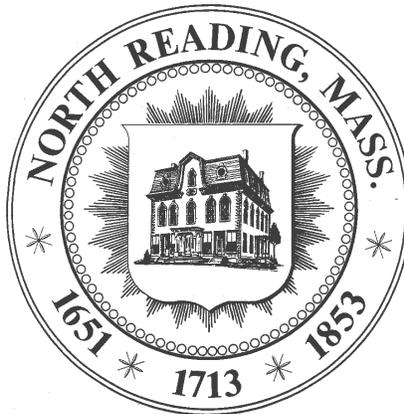


**TOWN OF NORTH READING
MASSACHUSETTS**

**FALL ANNUAL
TOWN MEETING WARRANT**



MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023

7:00 P.M.

Gymnasium, North Reading High School, 189 Park Street

*Learn more and ask questions about the business to be conducted
at Town Meeting at the Select Board's*

**WARRANT ARTICLE INFORMATIONAL HEARING ON
SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 AT 8:00 P.M.**

TURN PAGE FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Please bring this book with you to the Town Meeting.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION
REGARDING THE OCTOBER 2ND FALL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

It is the intention of the Town Moderator and Select Board to convene and conduct the Fall Annual Town Meeting at the Middle/High School located at 189 Park Street on Monday, October 2, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the gymnasium.

Under state law, only residents who are registered as voters in North Reading as of September 22, 2023 may participate at this Town Meeting. Residents who are not registered as of that date may attend Town Meeting but may not vote and will be seated separate from registered voters.

The Select Board wishes to call your attention to a **Warrant Article Informational Hearing** which will be held on **Monday, September 18, 2023 at 8:00 PM** in person at Town Hall, 235 North Street, in Room 14 and via “Zoom” virtual meeting technology. The purpose of this Informational Hearing is to give residents a chance to learn more about the warrant articles, to ask questions, and to be able to discuss the warrant article before Town Meeting as much as possible. Residents may access this hearing virtually as follows:

Via the internet: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82366018385>

Via phone: One tap mobile: +19292056099 or +13126266799

-or-

Dial by telephone: (929) 205-6099 or (312) 626-6799

Enter Meeting ID: 823 6601 8385 #, then press # again

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Italicized information is explanatory in nature.*

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PROCEDURE FOR TOWN MEETING

1. Moderator presides, using Roberts Rules of Order, except as provided by the General Laws, the Charter and By-Laws.
2. Articles in the warrant are considered in the order in which they appear, but voters may move to consider them out of order. (This takes a 4/5 vote of the Town Meeting.)
3. In order for an article to be considered by Town Meeting, it must be moved and seconded. The article is then open for debate by all in attendance.
4. To speak at Town Meeting, stand and say "Mr. Moderator". After being recognized by the Moderator, state name and address before making any remarks.
5. Debate may be ended by a voter's "Move the question."
6. Amendments to original motion must be presented in writing to the Moderator. Upon being seconded and discussed, the Moderator calls for a vote. If passed, the original motion, as amended, is then voted.
7. Reconsideration of a vote is permitted only once and only at that session of Town Meeting.

The above information was prepared by the North Reading League of Women Voters.

A CITIZEN'S CHECKLIST FOR TOWN MEETING

To be considered on each vote:

1. **IS IT NECESSARY?** Or is it something that is not really needed or perhaps already being provided by a private or public group?
2. **CAN WE AFFORD IT?** Remember, there is no limit to what we would like, but there is a limit to what we can afford.
3. **WHAT WILL IT ULTIMATELY COST?** Many proposals are like icebergs - only a small fraction of the total cost is apparent on the surface.
4. **HOW WILL IT AFFECT BASIC LIBERTIES?** If it imposes unreasonable or illegal restraints on your life or that of others it should be vigorously opposed.
5. **IS IT IN THE BALANCED BEST INTEREST OF ALL?** If it is designed to benefit a small group of special interests, while taking unfair advantage of others, work for its defeat.
6. **IS IT A "FOOT IN THE DOOR" PROPOSITION?** Compromising a little now may bring an oppressive burden later, either in more regulations or more taxes or a combination of both.
7. **DOES IT PLACE TOO MUCH POWER IN THE HANDS OF ONE INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP?** Once the decisive power is granted to a non-elected public official or a commission as a municipal authority, the private citizen lose effective control.
8. **IS ITS APPEAL BASED ON EMOTIONAL PROPAGANDA OR FACTS?** The further a proposition gets away from facts, the more critical one should be.

MOTIONS CUSTOMARY TO NORTH READING TOWN MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADMIT

A motion to admit non-voters to any session of a Town Meeting, which requires a majority vote of the Meeting in accordance with Town By-laws.

MOTION TO DISPENSE WITH THE READING OF THE WARRANT AND THE RETURN OF SERVICE BY THE CONSTABLE

This waives the requirement to read each article in its entirety as it is printed in the Warrant, which allows the Town Meeting to go directly to the reading of a motion under each article. It also waives the requirement to read the "Return of Service" which is the Constable's attestation that the Warrant was properly posted in accordance with the Town's By-laws.

MAIN MOTION

The initial motion made under each article to bring it before the Town Meeting for discussion and action. There must be a main motion before any action may be taken on each article.

MOTION TO AMEND

A motion that proposes to modify or change the action presented under another motion, usually the main motion. The Town Meeting must act on the amendment first; depending on how the amendment is voted will determine whether the main motion will change to reflect the amendment. If the amendment fails, there will be no change to the main motion; however, another motion to amend can be made.

MOTION TO CONSIDER OUT OF ORDER

A motion allowing an article to be taken out of its sequential order as printed in the Warrant, which requires a 4/5 vote of the meeting in accordance with the Town's By-laws.

MOTION TO POSTPONE

A motion to defer action on an article to a definite time. In some instances, action on one article may be dependent or impacted by another later-occurring article. In such an instance, a motion could be made to postpone action on the current article until the later-occurring article has been voted.

MOTION TO PASS OVER

A motion to defer action on an article indefinitely. No action would be taken under the article other than the vote to pass over. If the vote to pass over fails, then the article must be acted upon in some manner.

MOTION TO RECESS REGULAR TOWN MEETING

A motion to temporarily suspend discussion and action during the Meeting for a brief period of time, usually pre-stated.

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO A TIME CERTAIN

A motion made to continue the Town Meeting to another specified date, time and place, if necessary.

MOTION TO ADJOURN -- SINE DIE

A motion to officially close the Town Meeting. This motion can only be made after all articles have been acted upon, and essentially adjourns the Town Meeting without providing for a further date.

Glossary of Terms Commonly Used in Municipal Finance

Appropriation: An authorization granted by a legislative body to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. An appropriation is usually limited in amount and the time when it can be expended. Any amount that is appropriated may be encumbered. A warrant article appropriation is carried forward from year to year until spent for the designated purpose or transferred by town meeting vote to another account.

Assessed Valuation: The value placed upon a particular property by the local Board of Assessors for the purpose of apportioning the town's tax levy among individual property owners equitably and in accordance with the legal requirement that property be assessed at "full and fair cash value", certified periodically by the Commonwealth's Commissioner of Revenue (no less frequently than once every three years).

Available Funds: Balances in the various fund types that represent non-recurring revenue sources. As a matter of sound practice, they are frequently appropriated to meet unforeseen expenses, for capital expenditures or other onetime costs. Examples of available funds include free cash, stabilization funds and overlay surplus.

Audit: Work done by accountants in examining financial reports, reviewing compliance with applicable laws and regulations, reviewing effectiveness in achieving program results. A basic audit examines only the financial reports and legal compliance. An outside Certified Public Accountant (CPA) audit is directed primarily toward the expression of an opinion as to the fairness of the financial statements and submission of a management letter. An auditor must be independent of the executive branch of government. A state auditor, private CPA or public accountant, or elected auditor meets this test.

Bond: A means to raise money through the issuance of debt. A bond issuer/borrower promises in writing to repay a specified sum of money, alternately referred to as face value, par value or bond principal, to the buyer of the bond on a specified future date (maturity date), together with periodic interest at a specified rate.

Bond Authorization: The action of town meeting authorizing the executive branch to raise money through the sale of bonds in a specific amount and for a specific purpose. Once authorized, issuance is by the treasurer upon the signature of the selectmen.

Bond Issue: Generally, the sale of a certain number of bonds at one time by a governmental unit.

Bond Rating (Municipal): A credit rating assigned to a municipality to help investors assess the future ability, legal obligation, and willingness of the municipality (bond issuer) to make timely debt service payments. Stated otherwise, a rating helps prospective investors determine the level of risk associated with a given fixed-income investment. Rating agencies, such as Moody's and Standard and Poors, use rating systems, which designate a letter or a combination of letters and numerals where AAA is the highest rating and C1 is a very low rating.

Budget: A plan of financial operation embodying an estimate of proposed expenditures for a given period and the proposed means of financing them. A budget may be preliminary (the financial plan presented to the town meeting) or final (the plan approved by that body).

Capital Budget: A plan of proposed capital outlays and the means of financing them for the current fiscal period. It is usually a part of the current budget.

Cherry Sheet: An annual statement received from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue detailing estimated receipts for the next fiscal year for the various state aid accounts and estimated state and county government charges payable by the Town in setting the tax rate. The actual receipts and charges may vary from the estimates.

Collective Bargaining: The process of negotiating workers' wages, hours, benefits, working conditions, etc., between an employer and some or all of its employees, who are represented by a recognized labor union. Regarding wages, hours and working conditions.

Debt Exclusion: A vote to exclude from the levy limit the costs of debt service for capital projects. This exclusion remains in effect for the life of the debt only.

Debt Service: The repayment cost, usually stated in annual terms and based on an amortization schedule, of the principal and interest on any particular bond issue.

Enterprise Fund: A standalone fund with its own assets, liabilities, fund balance, revenues and expenses in which a municipal service is operated as a business unit. Costs of the service are primarily recovered from user charges, and may be supplemented by general revenues.

Excess Levy Capacity: The difference between the levy limit and the amount of real and personal property taxes actually levied in a given year.

Exemptions: A discharge, established by statute, from the obligation to pay all or a portion of a property tax. The exemption is available to particular categories of property or persons upon the timely submission and approval of an application to the assessors. Properties exempt from taxation include hospitals, schools, houses of worship, and cultural institutions. Persons who may qualify for exemptions include disabled veterans, blind individuals, surviving spouses, and seniors.

Expenditure: The spending of money by the town and schools for the programs or projects within the approved budget.

FTE: A full-time equivalent employee based on a 40-hour work week. May be one or more employees, but the total weekly hours equal 40.

Fiscal Year ("FY"): A 12-month period, beginning July 1 and ending June 30, to which the annual budget applies and at the end of which a governmental unit determines its financial position and the results of its operations. The designation of the fiscal year is that of the calendar year in which it ends; for example, FY17 or FY 2017 is the fiscal year which begins July 1, 2016 and ends June 30, 2017.

Free Cash: Certified as of each July 1 by the State, this is the portion of Undesignated Fund Balance available for appropriation. It is not cash per se, rather it is approximately the total of cash and receivables less current liabilities and earmarked reserves, reduced also by reserves for uncollected taxes.

Fund: An accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts that is segregated for the purpose of carrying on identified activities or attaining certain objectives in accordance with specific regulations, restrictions or limitations.

General Fund: The fund into which the general (non-earmarked) revenues of the town are deposited and from which money is appropriated to pay expenses.

General Obligation Bonds: Bonds issued by the Town that are backed by the full faith and credit of its taxing authority.

Joint Labor Management Negotiation Process: A negotiation process available to Police and Fire Unions, which utilizes Commonwealth of Massachusetts' mediators and arbitrators. If an arbitration decision is issued, it is binding upon the Executive Branch (The Select Board and Management Staff). Further, the Executive Branch must fully support such an arbitration decision before Town Meeting, even if they believe such a decision is not in the best interest of the Town.

Level-Service Budget: A budget that describes the funding required for maintaining current levels of service or activity, plus cost increases for contractual and mandated obligations. It brings previously approved programs forward at existing levels of service.

Levy Ceiling: A levy ceiling is one of two types of levy (tax) restrictions imposed by MGL Ch. 59 §21C (Proposition 2½). It states that, in any year, the real and personal property taxes imposed may not exceed 2½ percent of the total full and fair cash value of all taxable property. Property taxes levied may exceed this limit only if the community passes a capital exclusion, debt exclusion, or a special exclusion. (See Levy Limit)

Levy Limit: A levy limit is one of two types of levy (tax) restrictions imposed by MGL Ch. 59 §21C (Proposition 2½). It states that the real and personal property taxes imposed by a city or town may only grow each year by 2½ percent of the prior year's levy limit, plus new growth and any overrides or exclusions. The levy limit can exceed the levy ceiling only if the community passes a capital expenditure exclusion, debt exclusion, or special exclusion. (See Levy Ceiling)

Local Aid: Revenue allocated by the Commonwealth to cities, towns, and regional school districts. Estimates of local aid are transmitted to cities, towns, and districts annually by the "Cherry Sheets." Most Cherry Sheet aid programs are considered general fund revenues and may be spent for any purpose, subject to appropriation.

M.G.L.: Massachusetts General Laws.

New Growth: The additional tax revenue generated by new construction, renovations and other increases in the property tax base during a calendar year. It does not include value increases caused by normal market forces or by revaluations. New growth is calculated by multiplying the assessed value associated with new construction, renovations and other increases by the prior year tax rate. The additional tax revenue is then incorporated into the calculation of the next year's levy limit.

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB): The set of benefits, other than pensions, that government employees earn while actively working, but do not receive until they retire. Typically included is health insurance coverage for retirees, their spouses and in some cases their beneficiaries.

Operating Budget: A plan of proposed expenditures for personnel, supplies, and other expenses for the coming fiscal year.

Overlay: (Overlay Reserve or Allowance for Abatements and Exemptions) An account established annually to fund anticipated property tax abatements, exemptions and uncollected taxes in that year. The overlay reserve need not be funded by the normal appropriation process, but rather is raised on the tax rate recapitulation sheet, and cannot exceed an amount deemed reasonable by the Commissioner of Revenue.

Overlay Surplus: Any balance in the overlay account of a given year in excess of the amount remaining to be collected or abated can be transferred into this account. Within 10 days of a written request by the chief executive officer of a city or town, the assessors must provide a certification of the excess amount of overlay available to transfer. Overlay surplus may be appropriated for any lawful purpose. At the end of each fiscal year, unused overlay surplus is "closed" to surplus revenue, i.e., it becomes a part of free cash.

Override: A vote to increase the amount of property tax revenue that may be raised over the levy limit.

Personnel Services: The cost of salaries, wages and related employment benefits.

Purchased Services: The cost of services that are provided by a vendor.

Raise: A phrase used to identify a funding source for an expenditure which refers to money generated by the tax levy or other local receipt.

Reserve Fund: A fund appropriated each year that may be used only by vote of the Finance Committee for “extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures.” **Revolving Fund:** Those funds that may be used for special uses. For example, Recreation fees may be paid into a revolving fund, and expenditures can be made without appropriation with the approval of the Town Administrator.

Revolving funds: are established by state law or town bylaw. Some revolving funds must be annually reauthorized by Town Meeting.

Stabilization Fund: A fund designed to accumulate amounts for capital and other future spending purposes, although it may be appropriated for any lawful purpose (MGL Ch. 40 §5B). Stabilization funds may be established for different purposes, and interest generated by such funds is added to and becomes part of the stabilization fund. A two-thirds vote of town meeting is required to establish, amend the purpose of, or appropriate money into or out of the stabilization fund.

Tax Levy: Total amount of dollars assessed in property taxes imposed by the Town each fiscal year. **Tax Rate:** The amount of property tax stated in terms of a unit of the municipal tax base; for example, \$14.80 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation of taxable real and personal property.

Tax Title (or Tax Taking): A collection procedure that secures a city or town's lien on real property and protects the municipality's right to payment of overdue property taxes. Otherwise, the lien expires if five years elapse from the January 1 assessment date and the property has been transferred to another owner. If amounts remain outstanding on the property after issuing a demand for overdue property taxes and after publishing a notice of tax taking, the collector may take the property for the city or town. After properly recording the instrument of taking, the collector transfers responsibility for collecting the overdue amounts to the treasurer. After six months, the treasurer may initiate foreclosure proceedings.

Tax Title Foreclosure: The procedure initiated by a city or town treasurer in Land Court or through land of low value to obtain legal title to real property already in tax title and on which property taxes are overdue. The treasurer must wait at least six months from the date of a tax taking to initiate Land Court foreclosure proceedings (MGL Ch. 60 §65).

Triennial Certification: The Commissioner of Revenue, through the Bureau of Local Assessment, is required to review local assessed values every three years and to certify that they represent full and fair cash value (FFCV). Refer to MGL Ch. 40 §56 and Ch. 59 §2A(c).

Trust Fund: In general, a fund for money donated or transferred to a municipality with specific instructions on its use. As custodian of trust funds, the treasurer invests and expends such funds as stipulated by trust agreements, as directed by the commissioners of trust funds or by town meeting. Both principal and interest may be used if the trust is established as an expendable trust. For nonexpendable trust funds, only interest (not principal) may be expended as directed.

Turn Back: Unexpended funds of a prior fiscal year operating budget are returned to the Town, which ultimately revert to Free Cash.

Unreserved Fund Balance or Surplus Revenue Account: The amount by which cash, accounts receivable and other assets exceed liabilities and restricted reserves. It is akin to the stockholders equity account on a corporate balance sheet. It is not, however, available for appropriation in full because a portion of the assets listed as “accounts receivable” may be taxes receivable and uncollected. (See Free Cash)

Warrant: An authorization for an action. For example, a town meeting warrant establishes the matters that may be acted on by that town meeting. A treasury warrant authorizes the treasurer to pay specific bills. The assessors' warrant authorizes the tax collector to collect taxes in the amount and from the persons listed, respectively.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OF NORTH READING

FALL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

OCTOBER 2, 2023

7:00 P.M.

Middlesex, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of North Reading in the County of Middlesex, GREETINGS.

IN THE NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet at 189 Park Street in said North Reading, on **MONDAY**, the **SECOND DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023** at seven o'clock in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1 Hear and Act on Reports of Town Officers and Committees

To hear and act upon the reports of Town Officers and Committees.

Sponsor: Select Board

Description...

This is a customary article which provides for Officers and Committees so instructed to report to Town Meeting their progress or recommendations.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 2 Prior Year Bills

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds, a sum of money to pay prior year bills; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

Description...

This article would provide for payment of prior fiscal year bills which were not submitted prior to the end of Fiscal Year 2023. The requested amount for prior year bills, if any, will be available at Town Meeting. A 4/5 vote is required for approval of this article.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 3 Appropriate Money to Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years, or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds a sum of money to be added to the general Stabilization Fund; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Finance Committee

Description...

This article would transfer funds to the Town's Stabilization Fund. The Stabilization Fund may be used for any lawful purpose, however, it represents the Town's rainy day fund for unexpected emergencies. The current balance in the account is \$4,399,104. A recommendation for a transfer into the Fund, if any, will be available at Town Meeting.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 4 Appropriate Money to Capital Improvement Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years, or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds a sum of money to be added to the Capital Improvement Stabilization Fund established under Article 5 of the October, 2007 Town Meeting; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Description...

This article would transfer funds to the Town's Capital Improvement Stabilization Fund. The use of this fund includes funding capital purchases in order to reduce the need for borrowing for certain projects, and to pay debt service. The current balance in the account is \$1,374,740. A recommendation for a transfer into the Fund, if any, will be available at Town Meeting.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 5 Appropriate Money to Solid Waste Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years, or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds a sum of money to be added to the Solid Waste Stabilization Fund established under Article 23 of the April 3, 2006 Town Meeting; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

Description...

This article seeks to transfer surplus funds, if any, from funding sources including Trash Receipts to be used to offset future Solid Waste costs. The current balance in this account is \$149,673.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting.

Article 6 Appropriate Money to Participating Funding Arrangement Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years, or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds a sum of money to be added to the Participating Funding Agreement Fund established under Article 24 of the June 4, 2018 Town Meeting and re-named under Article 6 of the October 15, 2018 Town Meeting; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

Description...

The Select Board proposes to transfer the Town's share of surplus funds from the FY 2023 employee health insurance program, if any, to the Town's Participating Funding Arrangement Fund. The Fund is a reserve account to pay for the Town's portion of future employee health insurance costs. The current balance in this account is \$1,925,390.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 7 Amend FY 2024 Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to amend the FY 2024 Operating Budget voted under Article 19 of the June 12, 2023 Annual Town Meeting, including funding the first year of certain collective bargaining agreements, or otherwise amend said vote and to raise by taxation and appropriate, or appropriate and transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years, or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds, or borrow a sum of money for such purposes; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

Description...

This article would amend the FY2024 operating budget adopted at June Town Meeting. Specific lines to be amended, if any, will be available at Town Meeting.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 8 Rescind Authorizations to Borrow

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the authorized, but unissued balances of various borrowing authorizations approved by the Town from time to time, which amounts are no longer needed to pay costs of completing the projects for which they were originally approved; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

Description...

This is a routine article seeking to rescind bond authorizations that are no longer needed because the respective projects are completed or have been abandoned. Specific authorizations to be rescinded, if any, will be available at Town Meeting.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 9 Amend FY 2024 Capital Budget

To see if the Town will vote to amend the FY 2024 Capital Budget voted under Article 25 of the June 12, 2023 Annual Town Meeting, and to raise by taxation and appropriate, or appropriate and transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years, or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds, or borrow a sum of money for such purposes; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

Description...

This article would amend the FY2024 capital budget adopted at June Town Meeting. Proposed amendments, if any, will be provided at Town Meeting.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 10 Appropriate Money for Legal Expenses – 20 Elm Street Litigation

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years, or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds a sum of money for legal, engineering, consulting, and/or other services associated with the 20 Elm Street Chapter 40B Comprehensive Permit Application, including any costs incidental or related thereto; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

Description...

This article would provide additional funding for legal and other expenses related to the 20 Elm Street Chapter 40B Comprehensive Permit Application.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 11 Appropriate Money for Fire Station Design Development and Construction Documents

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years, or appropriate by transfer from any available funds, or borrow a sum of money for the purpose of design development and the generation of construction documents for the renovation of the Fire Station located at 152 Park Street, including any costs incidental or related thereto; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Facilities Master Plan Committee

Description...

This article would provide funding to advance plans for renovations to the Fire Station through final design and to generate construction documents. The Select Board anticipates proposing to pass over this article because it has funded this request with other available funds. A brief update on the project will be provided.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommend Passing Over

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 12 Appropriate Money for Bridge/Culvert Study

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years, or appropriate by transfer from any available funds, or borrow a sum of money to fund a bridge/culvert study, including all costs incidental and related thereto; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Department of Public Works

Description...

This article would fund an evaluation of bridges and culverts throughout Town to identify necessary repair(s) and/or replacement(s).

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 13 Authorize Article 97 Home-Rule Petition for Chestnut Street Bridge

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Conservation Commission for such purpose as it is presently held, to the Select Board for general municipal purposes, including public way purposes, the care, custody, management and control of a certain portion of the land at 168 Chestnut Street in the Town depicted as Lot 61 on Assessors Map 36 (Assessors Parcel ID No. 213/036.0-0000-0061.0) in the immediate vicinity of the Chestnut Street Bridge over the Ipswich River, such transfer to take effect only upon approval of the Conservation Commission and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as required by law; and further to authorize the Select Board to seek such authorization and approvals as may be required to carry out such transfer, which may include legislative approval pursuant to Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

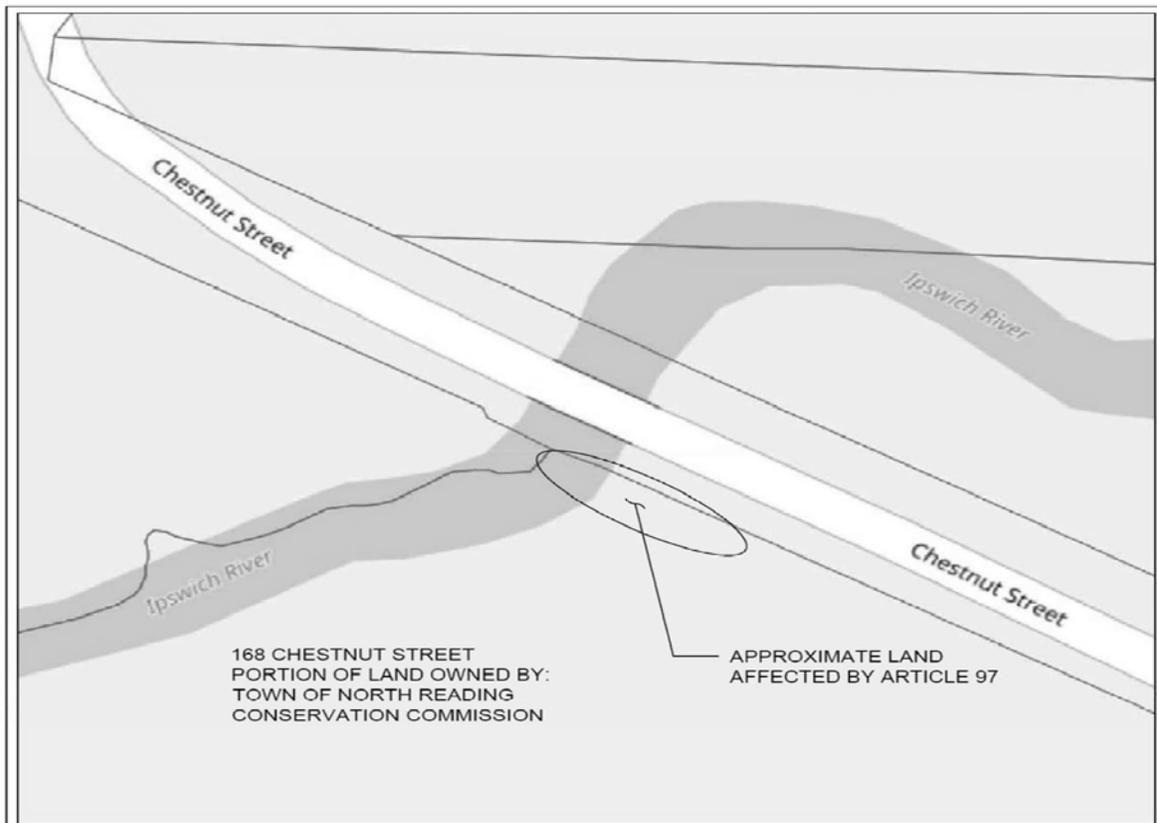
Description...

This article would enable the Select Board to seek State approval to utilize a portion of Conservation Commission property for components of a new bridge to carry Chestnut Street over the Ipswich River.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting



Article 14 Appropriate Money to Opioid Settlement Special Purpose Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years, or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds a sum of money to be added to the Opioid Settlement Special Purpose Stabilization Fund established pursuant to Article 14 of the June 12, 2023 Spring Annual Town Meeting; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

Description...

The Town, like many cities and towns in Massachusetts, is a participant in national multi-jurisdiction litigation seeking to recover funds from the manufacturers and distributors of opioid drugs. This article would appropriate money received last fiscal year (FY 2023) to a special purpose stabilization fund which created at the June Town Meeting.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 15 Appropriate Money for Substance Abuse Treatment, Mitigation, and Prevention

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years, or appropriate by transfer from any available source of funds a sum of money for substance abuse treatment, mitigation, and prevention, including all costs incidental and related thereto; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

Description...

This article would appropriate funds in support of the Town's efforts to address substance abuse.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 16 Create and Transfer Funds into Secondary School Building Project Debt Service Special Purpose Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 5B to create a Special Purpose Stabilization Fund; such fund to be used for the future payment of debt service associated with the Secondary School Building Project; and further, to see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years, or appropriate by transfer from any available funds, or borrow a sum of money to be transferred into said special purpose stabilization fund; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

Description...

This article would create a stabilization fund for the proceeds of the Town's 2022 settlement with the designer and owner's project manager for the secondary school building project. The exact utilization of funds will be determined after the final project reimbursement has been received from the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 17 Appropriate Money to Cover Grant Deficits

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from unexpended funds remaining in Warrant Articles of previous years, or appropriate by transfer from any available funds, or borrow a sum of money to cover deficits in any state, federal, or other grant accounts; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

Description...

This article would provide funding for certain expenditures of federal and/or state grant funds that were determined to be ineligible in the audit process.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 18 Authorize Hillview Commission to Enter into Golf Course Management Contracts for Terms in Excess of Three Years

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to G.L. c30B, §12 to authorize the Hillview Commission to enter into any and all contracts for golf management services for terms in excess of three (3) years; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Hillview Commission

Description...

This article would allow the Hillview Commission to enter into contracts for golf course management services for a terms in excess of the three year limit established by State Law.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE FOR NEXT ARTICLE

Article 19 Authorize Conveyance of Town-Owned Land for Affordable Housing (7 St. Theresa's Street)

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the tax title custodian to the Select Board for general municipal purposes, including the purpose of conveyance, the care, custody, and control of that certain parcel of land known as 7 Saint Theresa Street, identified as Parcel 101 on Town Assessors' Map 13, and being more particularly described in that deed recorded with the Southern Middlesex Registry of Deeds in Book 15394, Page 475, and depicted on that plan entitled: "Plan of Land 7 Saint Theresa Street, North Reading, Massachusetts, Assessors Map 13 Parcel 101," dated August 16, 2023, a copy of which has been placed on file with the Town Clerk, and to authorize the Select Board to convey said parcel on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Select Board deems appropriate, or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Community Planning Commission

Description...

This article would authorize the Select Board to convey the property, which is located within the Affordable Housing Zoning Overlay District, for purposes of developing affordable housing pursuant to the regulations of Section 200, Article XXI, of the Zoning Bylaw.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

TOWN OF NORTH READING
7 ST. THERESA'S STREET



Article 20 Amend Code of North Reading to Regulate Sustainable Food Ware and Packaging

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of North Reading General Bylaws by adding *Chapter 61 – Sustainable Food Ware and Packaging Regulations* as follows:

§ 61-1: PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of this bylaw is to limit the distribution and use of polystyrene food service containers and utensils by food establishments in the Town of North Reading and to encourage such establishments to switch to similar items made of more environmentally safe materials or switch to reusable items.

§ 61-2: DEFINITIONS

The following words and phrases shall, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, have the following meanings:

BIODEGRADABLE. Contains no polymers derived from fossil fuels; and is intended for single use and will decompose in a natural setting at a rate comparable to other biodegradable materials such as paper, leaves and food waste.

COMPOSTABLE. Materials certified to meet the American Society for Testing and Materials International Standards D6400, as those standards may be amended. ASTM D6400 is the specification for plastics designed for compostability in municipal or industrial aerobic composting facilities. Compostable materials shall also include products that conform to ASTM or other third-party standards for home composting. Any compostable product must be clearly labeled with the applicable standard on the product.

DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE WARE. All food and beverage containers, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, cups, lids, straws, stirrers, forks, spoons, knives, film wrap, and other items designed for one-time or non-durable in connection with the service, consumption or packaging of prepared foods. . This includes, but is not limited to, service ware for takeout foods and leftover food from partially consumed meals prepared at food establishments.

FOOD ESTABLISHMENT. An operation that stores, prepares, packages, serves, vends, or otherwise provides prepared food for human consumption. This includes, without limitation, restaurants and food trucks.

PACKING MATERIAL. Polystyrene foam used to hold, cushion, or protect items packed in a container for shipping, transport, or storage. This includes, without limitation, packing “peanuts”; and shipping boxes, coolers, ice chests, or similar containers made, in whole or in part, from polystyrene foam that is not wholly encapsulated or encased within a more durable material.

POLYSTYRENE. There are two basic forms, Foam and Rigid Polystyrene. Foam includes without limitation blown, expanded (EPS), and extruded foams such as “Styrofoam,” a Dow Chemical Co. trademark form of insulation. Foam Polystyrene is generally used to make opaque cups, bowls, plates, trays, clamshell containers, meat trays and egg cartons. Rigid or oriented polystyrene is generally used to make clear clamshell containers, cups, plates, straws, lids and utensils.

PREPARED FOOD. Food or beverages, which are served, packaged, cooked, chopped, sliced, mixed, bottled, frozen, squeezed or otherwise prepared on the food establishment's premises within the Town of North Reading, regardless of whether it is

consumed on or off the premises.

RECYCLABLE. Material that can be sorted, cleansed, and reconstituted using the North Reading curbside municipal collection programs for the purpose of using the altered form in the manufacture of a new product. "Recycling" does not include burning, incinerating, converting, or otherwise thermally destroying solid waste.

RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT. Any commercial business facility that sells goods directly to the consumer including but not limited to grocery stores, pharmacies, liquor stores, convenience stores, restaurants, retail stores and vendors selling clothing, food, and personal items, and dry cleaning services.

REUSABLE. Products that will be used more than once in its same form by a food establishment. Reusable also includes cleanable durable containers, packages, or trays used on- premises or returnable containers such as soft drink bottles and milk containers that are designed to be returned to the distributor and supplier for reuse as the same food or beverage container.

§ 61.3 USE REGULATIONS

- A. Food establishments are prohibited from selling, distributing or providing customers with polystyrene disposable food service ware in connection with the service or sale of prepared foods as defined herein
- B. Food establishments using any disposable food service ware shall use only biodegradable, compostable, reusable or recyclable food service ware. All food establishments are strongly encouraged to use reusable food service ware in place of using disposable food service ware for all prepared food.
- C. Retail establishments are prohibited from selling, distributing or providing polystyrene disposable food service ware to customers in connection with the service or sale prepared food as defined herein.
- D. Retail establishments are prohibited from selling, distributing or providing polystyrene foam packing material to customers in connection with the service or sale of prepared food or goods packaged in the Town of North Reading.

§ 61-4 ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

- A. Food establishments and retail establishments may apply to the Board of Health for approval of new food service ware products as they come on the market that meet, or exceed, the ASTM D6400 standards. The Board of Health shall be authorized to promulgate reasonable regulations for the effective administration and enforcement of this bylaw, including to determine the appropriate procedure for establishments to apply for approval of food service ware products and to establish reasonable reporting requirements for establishments to demonstrate compliance.
- B. This Bylaw shall be enforced through any lawful means in law or in equity, including, but not limited to, noncriminal disposition pursuant to MGL c. 40, § 21D. For purposes of noncriminal disposition, the Board of Health and the Health Agent/Health Director of the Town of North Reading shall be the enforcing authority.
- C. Enforcement using noncriminal disposition.

- (1) If enforced using noncriminal disposition, the following fine schedule shall apply:
 - (a) Warning for a first offense;
 - (b) \$50 for the second offense;
 - (c) \$100 for the third offense and any successive offense.
- (2) Subsequent offenses shall be determined as offenses occurring within two years of the date of the first noticed offense. Each day or portion thereof shall constitute a separate offense. A warning or fine may be appealed to the Board of Health within five days of issuance so long as any appeal by the offender is still filed with the District Court within 21 days as provided by MGL c. 40, § 21D.

§ 61-5 APPLICABILITY

While this Bylaw shall be effective upon approval by the Attorney General and in accordance with MGL c. 40, § 32, it shall be applicable to food and retail establishments in North Reading beginning September 1, 2024.

§ 61-5 SEVERABILITY

If any provision or section of this Bylaw shall be held to be invalid, then such provision or section shall be considered separately and apart from the remaining provisions or sections of this Bylaw, which shall remain in full force and effect.

Sponsor: Recycling Committee

Description...

This article would limit the distribution and use of polystyrene food service containers and utensils by food establishments in North Reading.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 21 Street Acceptance: Eaton Circle

To see if the Town will vote to accept Eaton Circle as a public way as heretofore laid out by the Select Board in the location shown on "Street Acceptance Plan, Eaton Circle in North Reading, MA", dated July 25, 2023, placed on file with the Town Clerk as required by law, and further to authorize the Select Board to acquire by purchase, gift, or eminent domain, the fee simple or a lesser interest in the land within such ways sufficient to complete this acceptance, and any easements related thereto; or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Community Planning Commission

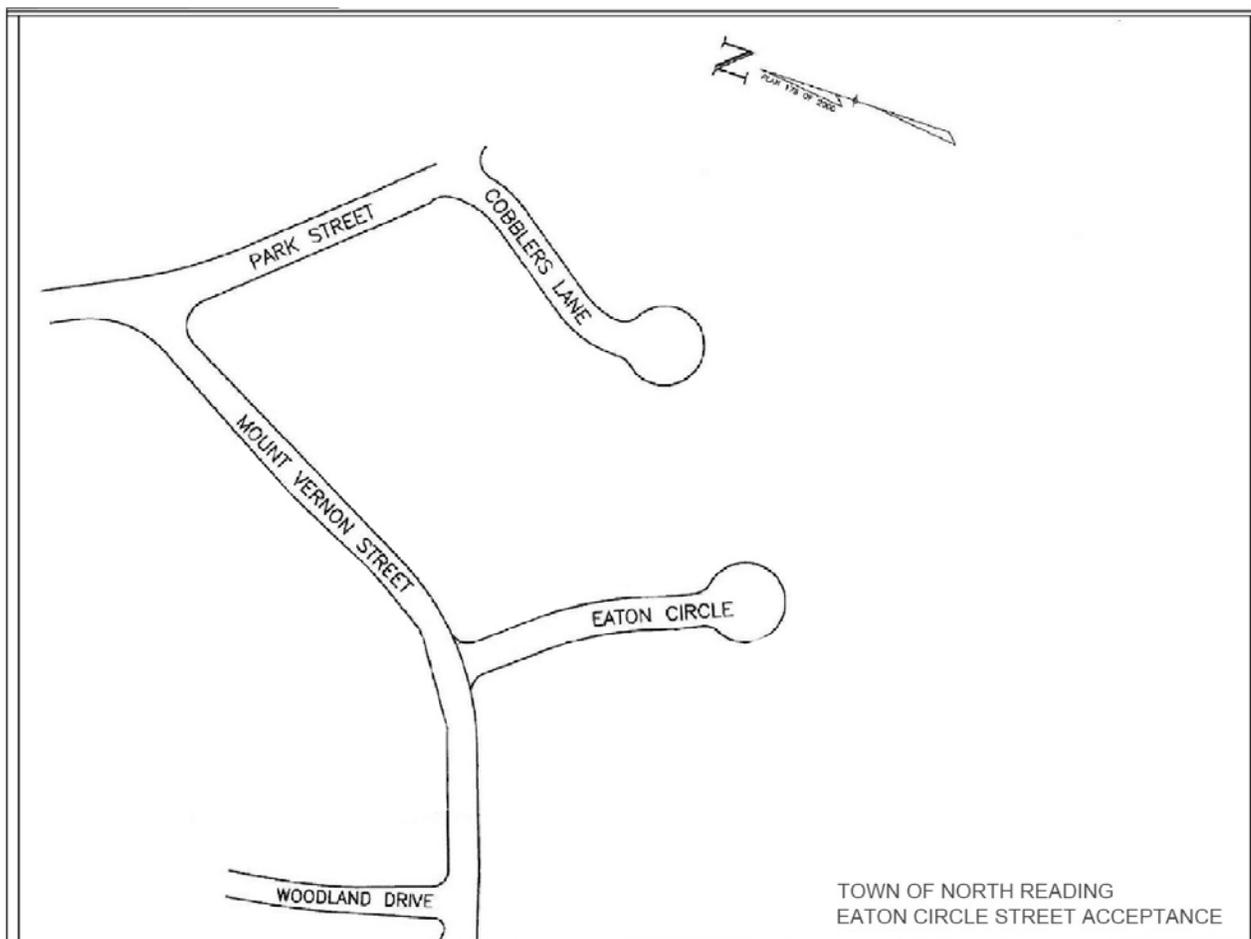
Description...

This article seeks to accept Eaton Circle as a public way.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting



Article 22 Authorize Home-Rule Petition Regarding Retired Police Officer

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation providing that now retired Detective Lieutenant and Executive Officer Thomas Romeo be exempt from the specific clause of chapter 32, section 7(2)(a)(ii) of the General Laws that states: "provided however, that for any employee who was not a member in service on or before January 1, 1988 or who has not been continuously a member in service since that date, the total yearly amount of the sum of such pension and the annuity as determined in accordance with clause (i) shall not exceed 75 per cent of the annual rate of regular compensation as determined in this paragraph;" all as set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court which are within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition, and to authorize the Select Board to approve such amendments:

AN ACT EXEMPTING THOMAS ROMEO FROM THE 75% PENSION AND ANNUITY LIMITATION FOR POLICE OFFICERS HIRED AFTER JULY 1, 1988 SET FORTH IN CHAPTER 32, SECTION 7(2)(a)(ii) OF THE GENERAL LAWS

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

WHEREAS, Romeo, a retired officer of the police department of the Town of North Reading, was determined to be totally and permanently incapacitated from performing the essential duties of a police officer pursuant to G.L. c. 32, §§7, 94, by the Middlesex County Retirement Board, which was approved by the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission.

WHEREAS, Romeo relied to his detriment on inaccurate calculations provided to him by the Middlesex Retirement Board that were based through no fault of his own on an incorrect membership date and contributed to critical decisions made by him regarding his retirement;

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of G.L. c. 32, §7(2)(a)(ii), the annual amount of pension payable to Thomas Romeo shall be amended and re-calculated as if his membership date with Middlesex County Retirement System was January 10, 1985.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, Romeo will be exempt from the following clause contained in chapter 32, section 7(2)(a)(ii) of the General Laws: "provided however, that for any employee who was not a member in service on or before January 1, 1988 or who has not been continuously a member in service since that date, the total yearly amount of the sum of such pension and the annuity as determined in accordance with clause (i) shall not exceed 75 per cent of the annual rate of regular compensation as determined in this paragraph;"

SECTION 3. The recalculation by the Middlesex County Retirement System shall be retroactive to Romeo's effective retirement date of January 20, 2023.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

or what it will do in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Select Board

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE FOR ARTICLE DESCRIPTION

Description...

This article would grant a certain retired police officer a pension calculated as if his membership date with the Middlesex County Retirement System was January 10, 1985, as was presented to him by the Retirement System at the time of his application to retire.

Recommendations ...

Select Board: Recommended

Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

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And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies, fourteen days at least before the time of holding said meeting, in accordance with the Code of the Town of North Reading.

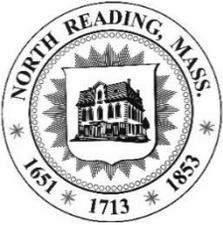
HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting, as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this sixth day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three.

SELECT BOARD

- Liane R. Gonzalez, Chair
- Vincenzo Stuto, Vice Chair
- Richard Wallner, Clerk
- Stephen J. O'Leary
- Kathryn M. Manupelli

A True Copy:
Attest: Douglas Labb, Constable



TOWN OF NORTH READING

Citizen Activity Form



(Scan QR code to complete this form online)

Paper copies can be returned to: Town Administrator, 235 North St, North Reading 01864

I hereby request to be considered for membership to the following board(s) and/or committee(s): (If more than one, please indicate your preference: 1,2,3...)

<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Assessors	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Recycling Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Cable Advisory Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Commission on Disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Hillview Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Event Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Memorial Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Constables	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Utilization Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Council on Aging	<input type="checkbox"/> Library Trustees	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Services Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Martins Pond Reclamation Study Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Board of Appeals

Signature of Applicant

Date

Full Name (Print): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Residence Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Please specify: Home Office Mobile

Membership in community organizations:

Do you have any skills, experience, or education you would like to mention?

What is your reason for wanting to serve on this board / committee / other?

Thank you for volunteering to serve your community

Town of North Reading
Fall (October) Annual Town Meeting
October 2, 2023
North Reading, MA 01864

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